

Mass Intentions

Richard T. Kane	18th Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(12/4)
Charles & Lillian Kerce	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(12/4)
Josephine Celata	7th Anniversary Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/5)
Josephine Billingsley	20th Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/5)
Joseph Bucchieri	Memorial Mass	7:00 p.m. Tuesday	(12/7)
Francis 'Jeff' Deary	25th Anniversary	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(12/11)
Joseph & Rosemary Orlando	Memorial Mass	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(12/12)
Dorothy Parkins	1st Anniversary Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(12/12)



**The Immaculate Conception:** Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation are Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 p.m. & Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. There is also a Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church on Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.

**FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.** On December 4 & 5 Father John F. Miles, C.R. will speak at all our Masses about **Food for the Poor**, a ministry that provides direct relief to the poor throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Father Miles will share what he has witnessed about Food for the Poor's mission to care for the destitute as a means of living out the Gospel mandate to love one another. Father Miles was ordained for the order of the Congregation of the Resurrection in 1951. He was the Rector of the Resurrectionist Theological Seminary and a pastor of several Parishes before joining Food for the Poor 15 years ago. We welcome Father Miles to our Parish.



**Christmas Flowers & Decorations:** If you wish to make a donation toward the Christmas flowers & decorations in memory of your loved ones, envelopes may be found at the doors of the church. Two requests: Please make your contribution before Tuesday, December 21 and print names clearly. These names will be included with the Christmas bulletin. Thank you.

**December Brunch Buffet:** Bring family & friends to the special December Brunch Buffet, Sunday, December 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Menu includes: Roast Turkey, Roast Beef au jus, Chicken with Ziti & Broccoli a la Giovanni, Omelets, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans a la Vinnie, assorted breads and pastries. Donation: Adult \$10.00, child under 10, \$5.00.



**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:** In the Letter of St. James we find the question, "Is there anyone sick among you?" The response is that the sick are to call the priests of the Church who are to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. This Sacrament is not to be looked upon as the "Last Rites" but as a powerful instrument of God's healing and strength. Therefore prior to surgery or when diagnosed with or living with a serious illness avail yourself of this gift. On the First Friday of each month, (January 7) this Sacrament is offered following the 9:00 a.m. Mass or call the Rectory for a more convenient time.

**Common Sense during the Cold and Flu Season:** If a person has a cold or the flu and attends Mass, it would be better, for the good of others, not to shake hands, but rather choose another suitable gesture such as a nod of the head or a verbal exchange of peace. We value the significance of the sign of peace, but we also need to exercise prudence.



**St. Vincent de Paul Blanket Drive:** will be held on December 4 & 5. Bins will be available for your donation of blankets which will be given to area shelters and the needy. Thank you.



**United Parish Food Pantry:** Our thanks for your continuous support of the local food pantry. The second weekend each month (our next food collection will be the weekend of December 11 & 12) we invite you to bring non-perishable food to Church. The food is then brought to our local food pantry (located at the Cliftdale Congregational Church) where it is distributed on Friday mornings (10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.). Your gift of food is always needed and very much appreciated. Thanks for your help.

**Ministry to the Homebound:** Do you know someone who is not able to come to Mass but would appreciate receiving Holy Communion on a regular basis? If so, would you let us know by calling the Rectory (781-233-1040). Prior to Christmas, Fr. George will be visiting home-bound parishioners bringing them Holy Communion. Our Parish also has some wonderful Ministers of Holy Communion who would be glad to visit on a regular basis throughout the year. Thank you.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel!*

**Religious Education:** Classes for Grades 1 through 6 are held from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. at the Belmonte Middle School.



Grades 7 & 8 - next class is Friday, December 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.



**Confirmation Year I:** Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Confirmation Year II:** The next class for students & sponsors will be Sunday, December 5 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

**Catholic High Schools Placement Test:** will be administered on December 11. For registration and information on test locations, contact one of the High Schools listed above. Nationally, 90% of Catholic High School graduates go on to college and students learn Catholic morals, values and discipline to help them succeed in life. "A Catholic Education Is An Advantage For Life."

**Is God calling you?** The Church needs men and women to serve the spiritual needs of God's people. Is God calling you to serve as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If God is calling you call Father Oscar Pratt at the Vocation Office 617-746-5949.

**Kevin Baumann:** We continue to keep the "bucket" with fliers about Kevin in the vestibule of the Church. Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated. You may deposit your offering directly into the Kevin Baumann Medical Fund, account # 25005, tax number 04-692-9285, at the Saugus Federal Credit Union. Please pray for Kevin and his family.

**Slide Projectors Needed:** The Pro-Life Office is in need of a number of slide projectors for their 13 speakers teams. The donation of a projector will save the office \$375.00. Call Deb at 617-746-5855 if you have an old projector that you are not presently using and no longer want. Thank you.

**Second Collections**

December 4 & 5 Food For the Poor  
December 11 & 12 Parish Monthly Collection

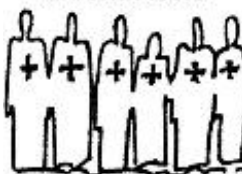
**Grand Annual Collection:** Sincere thanks to those who have given to this year's Grand Annual Collection. To date the Parish has received \$13,970.00. As we continue with needed repairs to Parish property, we rely on your generosity. Thank you.



**Offertory Collection:** Last Sunday's collection was \$2,410.00. Thank you for your generosity to the needs of your Parish.

**Without Sin** by Fr. Jeffrey Day: Catholics sometimes get confused about what we celebrate on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Due to this Feast's proximity to Christmas, and the fact that the Gospel passage for this day speaks of Jesus' conception, some may forget that today we actually celebrate Mary's conception. Why should we celebrate this? Because Mary was the first person to experience the redemptive grace of Christ. Even before Jesus was born, lived an earthly life, and died on the cross, Mary was able to experience the grace of being conceived without any trace of sin. This enabled her to live a life of total commitment to God. Even though the Feast of the Immaculate Conception involves the life of Mary, it is really a story about the goodness of God. When we see what God was willing to do for the mother of Jesus, it gives us hope because we are her children as well. Mary was conceived without sin so that she might be able to give the glory and credit to God. Nothing pleases her more than to know that her Son is being praised and worshipped. I think that somehow, when people mistakenly think the Immaculate Conception is about Jesus, even this brings a smile to Mary's face.

**Eucharistic**



**Ministers**

**Thank you and Congratulations:**

We recently completed training of several parishioners who will serve in the capacity of Ministers of Holy Communion ministering Holy Communion at Mass, bringing Communion to the Sick in their homes, in nursing homes and to the Melrose Wakefield Hospital. Thanks and congratulations to Marie Cotreau, Jean Femia, Pauline Nelson, Carmella Mersicano, Bunnie Castaldo, Joanne Eaves, Margaret Berkowitch and Patrick Soriano.

**Stewards of God's Gifts:** We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

*The peace of the Lord be with you.*

**Parish Offertory Envelopes:** We encourage the use of Parish Envelopes for your weekly donation to help support our Parish. If you wish to receive envelopes, please give us the following information:

Name:

Address: